How Mode Impacts AIMS Writing Scores

The holistic rubric is appropriate for scoring all modes of writing. Examining the elements that are scored in AIMS writing indicates how the extended response score is affected by mode. These elements are the development of ideas, the organization of ideas, the voice or tone used to communicate the ideas and connect with the reader, the vocabulary chosen for addressing the topic and connecting with the reader, sentence construction to clearly present the ideas and contribute to the overall flow of the ideas, and conventions to guide the reader through the writing. Scoring with a holistic rubric does not require all bullets within a score point to be met. This is also true for consulting this chart. Every bullet will not pertain to all variations of the modes, but most of the bullets for a mode will fit the various types of text within that mode.

MODES (Applications)	ELEMENTS OF WRITING
☐ Expressive (e.g., narrative, story, poetry, drama) ~ More sophisticated writers may use narrative writing within other modes. For instance, the introductory paragraph of an expository, persuasive, or literary analysis essay may be in narrative mode.	☐ Idea development ~ develops a main idea, real or imagined ~ establishes a purpose (to entertain, to relate personal experience) ~ uses clear and specific details to develop the idea(s) ☐ Organization ~ includes a creative or inviting beginning ~ uses transitions to guide the reader (dialog is one form of transitioning) ~ sequences ideas to fit the exploration of the topic ~ includes closure that signifies an ending; may be creative, but must clearly end the piece ☐ Voice or tone ~ demonstrates intentional commitment to the topic ~ shows interaction between the writer and reader ~ remains appropriately consistent throughout (writer establishes and maintains a tone of mystery, playfulness, sincerity, etc.) ☐ Vocabulary/word choice ~ chooses words to establish and maintain the tone ~ chooses words/ phrases that appeal to the senses; figurative language ~ uses words that fit and support the purpose of the piece ~ chooses creative words/phrases to enhance meaning ~ uses repetition for effect ☐ Sentence structure ~ uses varied sentences that fit the topic and tone of the piece ~ crafts sentences to enhance meaning ~ uses run-ons and/or fragments for effect ~ creates a flow of sentences that fit and maintain the tone ☐ Conventions ~ uses correct conventions for clarity ~ uses conventions creatively to intentionally affect the reader (e.g., invented spelling, invented words, capital letters, creative punctuation, etc.)

MODES (Applications)	ELEMENTS OF WRITING
☐ Expository (non-fiction writing that describes, explains, informs, or summarizes; has a thesis based on research, observation, and/or experience) ~ expository text may be persuasive – see Persuasive; research is also expository; writer may use narrative as an attention-getting device in introduction and/or conclusion	☐ Idea development ~ develops clear, coherent ideas(s) to establish purpose ~ uses relevant supporting details/explanation ~ creates a focus that does not stray from the topic ~ offers credible support ☐ Organization ~ uses a clear structure to fit the topic (e.g., topical, chronological, spatial) ~ uses clear sequencing using appropriate transitions from one idea to the next, one section to the next ~ creates an inviting beginning that fits the purpose ~ offers a satisfying closing the offers a sense of closure to the topic ☐ Voice or tone ~ demonstrates knowledge of and commitment to the topic ~ establishes appropriately formal or informal voice/tone ~ maintains the voice/tone established ~ shows audience awareness ☐ Vocabulary/word choice ~ chooses words to establish and maintain tone ~ chooses words that are appropriately formal or informal ~ uses words that fit the purpose of the piece ~ includes some figurative language if appropriate ~ includes words/phrases to convey both the message and the voice/tone of the piece ☐ Sentence structure ~ uses varied sentences that fit the topic and purpose ~ creates sentences that flow smoothly and have a natural sound ~ uses simple and complex structures to enhance meaning ☐ Conventions ~ uses correct conventions for clarity

2

MODES (Applications)	ELEMENTS OF WRITING
☐ Functional (e.g., letters, memos, schedules, directories, signs, manuals, forms, recipes, and technical pieces for specific content areas) ~ new advances in technology allow for more types of functional text such as PowerPoint presentations; functional text as advertising or announcing will also meet most of the bullets	☐ Idea development ~ develops ideas to communicate a clear purpose ~ supports and explains ideas clearly and concisely ~ balances ideas and development to fit the purpose ~ identifies an audience to fit purpose ☐ Organization ~ establishes a brief introduction that includes purpose and audience ~ sequences ideas and support clearly and concisely ~ balances and controls organization of ideas ~ establishes a format that is appropriate to purpose (e.g., formal or informal letters, announcement flyer or poster, recipe, memos) ~ provides closure that maintains purpose and audience ☐ Voice or tone ~ Establishes and maintains formal or informal voice, according to purpose and audience ~ reflects commitment to the topic and intentional interaction with the audience ☐ Vocabulary/word choice ~ fits the established voice/tone and purpose of the piece ~ uses words that are appropriately formal or informal ~ avoids repetition unless intentional for effect ~ uses figurative language according to purpose ☐ Sentence structure ~ develops sentences structures that fit the purpose of the piece ~ uses fragments or bulleted information, dependent on purpose and format ☐ Conventions ~ uses punctuation that fits purpose and format ~ uses conventions appropriately for clarity of message

3

MODES (Applications)	ELEMENTS OF WRITING
☐ Persuasive (text used for the purpose of influencing the reader; writers present an issue, express an opinion in order to convince an audience to agree or to take action) ~ expository essays, letters, and literary responses may be persuasive; writer may use narrative as an attention-getting device in introduction and/or conclusion ~ more sophisticated writers may use 2nd person and a more informal voice when writing a persuasive response; may also address the opposing side effectively	☐ Ideas and development ~ presents ideas as issues or opinions; establishes thesis ~ uses specific and detailed support exploring the issue or opinion ~ includes relevant details and explanations ☐ Organization ~ organizes appropriately for topic (e.g., problem/solution, point/counterpoint [recognizing an opposing view],logical sequencing of argument/main points) ~ uses transitions between sentences and paragraphs to enhance the argument ~ establishes purpose in clear introduction ~ provides closure with clear, concise ending ☐ Voice or tone ~ demonstrates strong commitment to purpose ~ uses formal, academic voice ☐ Vocabulary/word choice ~ uses academic or technical vocabulary to fit purpose ~ uses persuasive words and phrases ☐ Sentence structure ~ creates sentence structure that allows ideas to flow smoothly ~ uses varied beginnings and lengths ☐ Conventions ~ uses correct conventions for clarity

MODES (Applications)	ELEMENTS OF WRITING
☐ Literary response (reaction to literature that includes the writer's interpretation, analysis, opinion, and /or feelings about the piece of literature) ~ literary analysis may also be persuasive text; writer may use narrative as an attention-getting device in introduction and/or conclusion	☐ Ideas and development ~ establishes the topic or thesis clearly; identifies author and title of literature for response ~ identifies the literary aspects that will be explored ~ provides support in the form of details, explanation, examples, and direct references to the text being analyzed (may be in the form of direct quotations) ~ supports with clear and focused development ☐ Organization ~ offers a clear and inviting beginning ~ uses logical organization with appropriate transitions between and among all elements ~ offers closure with effective ending ☐ Voice or tone ~ establishes and maintains writer's understanding of the topic ~ uses formal and academic voice/tone ~ shows strong conviction and commitment ☐ Vocabulary/word choice ~ uses specific, academic vocabulary ~ evoke images with selected words and phrases ~ chooses words and phrases to reflect purpose (i.e., persuasive, entertaining, informational) ☐ Sentence structure ~ creates sentences that flow smoothly ~ uses varied structures ~ uses varied beginnings and lengths ☐ Conventions ~ uses correct conventions for clarity

MODES (Applications)	ELEMENTS OF WRITING
☐ Research (writer identifies a topic or question, locates and evaluates information about the topic or question, then organizes, summarizes, and synthesizes the information into a finished product) ~ writer may use narrative as an attention-getting device in introduction and/or conclusion	☐ Ideas and development ~ establishes the topic or thesis clearly ~ supports and maintains intent of the topic/thesis ~ uses relevant details, examples, quotations, etc. ~ uses citations of ideas as required ☐ Organization ~ presents logical organization ~ places supporting details effectively ~ controls effective transitions to avoid overuse ~ creates beginning that clearly states focus ~ provides closure with effective ending ☐ Voice or tone ~ establishes writer's knowledge about the topic with academic voice/tone ~ maintains commitment to the topic ☐ Vocabulary/word choice ~ uses formal, academic language ~ chooses specific words and phrases to strengthen content ~ avoids overuse of terminology without explanation ☐ Sentence structure ~ creates strong sentences that flow smoothly ~ uses varied beginnings and lengths ~ employs alternate structures (e.g., bulleted information) within longer research pieces ☐ Conventions ~ uses correct conventions for clarity ~ uses correct formatting and documentation

6